



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4/Pre-A  
DEMANC  
4-3-02

In re Application of:

Eva Ackerman and Randy Gene Clark

Serial No.: 09/764,572

Filed: January 18, 2001

For: Faceplate with Fire Retardant  
Material for an Electrical Box

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Atty. Dkt. No.: 041443-00752

Group Art Unit: 1714

I hereby certify that this document and its  
attachments are being deposited with the United  
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Washington, DC 20231, on this 28th day of  
November, 2001.

Printed Name: Jana Walraven

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examining the above referenced file, the Examiner is requested to enter the  
amendment contained herein.

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice and add claims 23-36 as follows:

--23. A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

- a) providing a gasket comprising fire retardant material;
- b) placing the fire retardant gasket between a faceplate and an electrical box adapted  
to be introduced into the barrier;
- c) coupling the faceplate to the box; and
- d) at least partially reestablishing a fire rating of the barrier.

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